

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 82
By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Andrew von Zellen as a recipient of the National Boy Scout's Honor Medal.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for this General Assembly to recognize and honor those Tennesseans who act bravely in extreme and unforeseen situations, saving the life of another individual while putting their own lives at risk; and

WHEREAS, Andrew von Zellen, at the age of fifteen, is one such outstanding Tennessean, who selflessly risked his own life so that the life of a complete stranger could be spared and, in doing so, earned the National Boy Scout's Honor Medal; and

WHEREAS, while enjoying a day of swimming and boogie boarding at a public beach in Gulf Shores, Alabama, on May 29, 2004, Andrew von Zellen noticed a group of people swimming nearby; and

WHEREAS, Andrew became aware of one swimmer being pushed farther out into the ocean by the strengthening riptide and could tell that this individual was beginning to panic and was struggling to stay afloat; and

WHEREAS, because this distraught woman seemed to be in great danger of drowning, Andrew quickly paddled on his boogie board to reach her and offered his assistance; and

WHEREAS, at first, seeing only her arms above the water, Andrew tried to pull her onto the boogie board with no avail; he tried again, and once she was on the board, Andrew attempted to calm her while also swimming to shore; and

WHEREAS, lifeguards met the valiant Andrew and his rescued swimmer on shore, and she was immediately transported to the hospital; the von Zellen family later found out that the woman was treated and released; and

WHEREAS, Andrew von Zellen is a Life Scout in Troop 13 in Franklin, Tennessee, and, due to his courageous act of bravery, he was awarded the Honor Medal, the second highest of

five lifesaving awards presented by the National Boy Scout organization. It is given to someone who demonstrates unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life at considerable risk to one's self; and

WHEREAS, according to officials with the Middle Tennessee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, this is the first Honor Medal to be awarded in Middle Tennessee in the last ten years; and

WHEREAS, always dedicated and enthusiastic, Andrew also earned the Arrow of Light, the highest award in Cub Scouts, prior to becoming a Boy Scout in 2000. The Boy Scouts of America attempt to provide character development, citizenship training, and improved mental and physical fitness; Andrew epitomizes these traits and hopes to one day obtain the rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, Andrew von Zellen clearly demonstrated bravery and self-possession far in excess of what might be expected from one so young; his courage and strength of character are clearly deserving of special recognition and praise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Andrew von Zellen of Spring Hill for earning the Honor Medal through his outstanding demonstration of courage, resourcefulness, and presence of mind, and we join with his family, schoolmates, fellow Boy Scout Troop members, the people of Spring Hill, and all the citizens of Tennessee in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer Andrew von Zellen our best wishes for his every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.